

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2005

Attendance:

Members Present:

Susan Austin
Debbie Braam
Bob Coen
Councilman Dion Guthrie
Stacey Hull
Gil Kennedy
Laurie Kwiedorowicz
Rhia Perry
Mike Watkins

Members Absent:

Angela Barnett
Buddy Green
Joan Loftus
Keith Lewis
Rhia Perry
Carol Roughton
Marc Weinstein

- I. Vice Chairperson, Laurie Kwiedorowicz called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the March 7, 2005 Commission meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive Committee: Following Mike Drummond's resignation from the Commission, a vacancy exists in the category of "Individuals representing agencies serving people with disabilities." A press release announcing that the Commission is accepting applications will be issued.
 - B. Accessibility Committee:
 1. Ramps for Homeowners and Renters Program: Jack Wilson of the Housing Agency is still accepting applications. Unfortunately, to date, no applicant has met

Striving for a Better Way of Life for Harford County Citizens with Disabilities



all criteria.

2. Waiver Request Committee: Gil Kennedy reported that the committee met to review a request for waiver of the Maryland Accessibility Code, submitted by a Harford County congregation. The committee sent a letter to the Codes Administration recommending that the waiver be denied.
- C. Education Committee: Committee Chairperson Debbie Braam reported that Mountain Christian Church is being considered as a venue for the March 2006 Expo for Individuals with Disabilities. The committee is also working with Pam Stewart from Maryland Relay on a communication devices workshop. (Date to be announced.)
- D. Government and Community Relations Committee: See attached Legislative Committee report.

IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report:

- A. The World of Possibilities Disabilities Expo will be held May 20-21, 2005 at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. Free passes are available on-line at www.caringcommunities.org or by contacting Sharon Grzanka.
- B. The Harford County Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will hold its annual awards ceremony and luncheon on Thursday, October 20, 2005, at noon at the Maryland Golf and Country Club in Bel Air.
- C. The Town of Bel Air will use its Community Development Block Grant Funds for accessibility upgrades to the National Guard Armory in Bel Air, which they have purchased for use as a community center.

V. Old Business:

- A. Transportation Steering Committee:
The Subscription Service bus route is running smoothly, transporting selected Arc Northern Chesapeake Region and

Alliance, Inc. clients from their homes to the Arc Center and Alliance, as well as clients to and from employment. The new Mobility Trainer/Coordinator, Cheryl Gable, has traveled on all the Harford Transit bus routes and is now scheduling presentations to agencies and organizations on mobility training services.

The next meeting of the Transportation Steering Committee will be held on May 10, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School", 205 Hays Street, Bel Air.

The Subscription Service Subcommittee will meet on April 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at Harford Transit.

- B. Presentation to Commission on Kids CAN: A letter to the editor of the Aegis on the issue of mentors for children with disabilities will be prepared for Commission review and approval.

VI. New Business: 15th Anniversary of the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, July 2005: Commission members interested in serving on a committee to plan the commemoration event are asked to contact Sharon Grzanka.

VII. Announcements and Public Comment:

- A. Councilman Guthrie announced that a proclamation on Autism Awareness Month will be presented at the County Council meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2005 at 8:00 p.m.
- B. Pete Raimondi updated the Commission on his advocacy efforts in the area of architectural barriers and played a videotape of an interview that appeared on Channel 11 about his accessibility issue with his condo association.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, April 25, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

This document is available in alternative format upon request.